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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1310

June 24th, 2026

The Honorable David A. Fink
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink,

I write to express my support for the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) application, on behalf of the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Program, for funding through the National Railroad Partnership Program. The CREATE Program is the nation's largest public-private rail partnership and is focused on addressing critical rail bottlenecks in the Chicagoland region.

Federal funding would advance the Rock Island Connection project (P2), a key phase of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project. The P2 project will construct a flyover bridge at Belt Junction to eliminate a major rail chokepoint and reduce conflicts between freight and passenger rail operations. By separating passenger and freight movements, P2 directly supports the goals of the National Railroad Partnership Program by improving rail reliability, safety, and travel times in the nation's most congested rail terminal. Completion of P2 is essential to fully realizing freight delay reductions and improving overall network performance.

The benefits of this project extend beyond the immediate corridor. P2 will improve freight mobility to and from nearby intermodal facilities, reduce congestion during peak travel periods, and strengthen regional and intercity passenger rail operations through improved service reliability and reduced conflicts.

The Chicagoland area plays a vital role in the movement of people and goods throughout the United States. Investments in projects such as P2 will support economic growth, strengthen supply chain resilience, and deliver lasting benefits to communities. I urge your complete and fair consideration of the Illinois Department of Transportation's application. Should you need any assistance, please contact Jake Kaplan at Jake.Kaplan@mail.house.gov or at (847) 383-4870

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley S. Schneider".

Bradley S. Schneider
Member of Congress